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photo by Bessie Chow

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OURSAC teams up with RA's to address sexual assault in res

by Kevin Groves

The fight against sexual violence in University of Victoria residence this year just became a little more unified.

The Open UVic Resource Sexual Assault Centre (OURSAC) will work with residential advisors this fall to inform new UVic residents of this continuing problem on campus. Previously, OURSAC conducted a seminar in residence at the beginning of each year, in conjunction with speakers from UVic Housing and Campus Security. This year, housing officials decided to change the format and bring the residential advisors more into the forefront of addressing sexualized violence in residence.

"I think that students would want to hear more about these issues from someone who's lived in residence before," said Lisa Gibson, Residence Life Coordinator for UVic Housing.

The centre was opened in 1996 to provide support, information and referrals to survivors of sexualized violence and their supporters. In late August, staff from OURSAC will conduct a workshop with residential advisors about sexual assault. Topics to be discussed will include medical, police and court procedures, healthy relationships, including proper boundaries and communication, and the role of date rape drugs and alcohol in sexual assaults.

Tammie Jeppesen, Acting Coordinator of the centre explained that most of the advisors have training from previous years but the sessions in August will serve as a refresher.

"In September, they will then relay the information to new residents by conducting workshops about sexualized violence," she said.

The centre continues to maintain a close relationship with the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre (VWSAC) downtown.

"I've had people who were referred from [the Women's Centre], so our clients aren't necessarily all UVic students," said Susan Holm, a support worker with the UVic centre.

A big change to the program this year is the removal of a video dating from the 1980s about sexual assault that used to be shown to new UVic residents. An up-to-date video will now be used courtesy of the VWSAC's own Project Respect, an educational group that conducts workshops in local high schools.

"What makes this video particularly effective is that it's youth talking to youth," said Jenny Matthews, prevention coordinator for the Women's Centre. "Project Respect's actors are all in their teens and their work helps to give youth the tools to talk about sex openly from the beginning."

In spite of the video upgrade, Jeppesen expressed some concern about residential advisors leading the seminars because the older format sometimes triggered audience members, or raised questions that could be difficult to field. "Hopefully, though, we will do enough training with the [residential advisors] so that they feel comfortable with the topic," she said.

Holm added that OURSAC will be making it very clear in their training that their services are available to the residential advisors as well as new residents. The centre will also be ensuring that it maintains a positive relationship with UVic Housing in the future.

"It's good that they're asking for our help on these issues," Holm said. "They could just be saying that we're there and that's it."

According to Statistics Canada, in 1999, females accounted for three-quarters of all victims of criminal harassment. Most victims of criminal harassment know their accused and in many instances the stalker and victim were involved in a previous relationship.

Of the cases of sexual violence reported last year in Canada, B.C. had the second highest instance rate after Ontario. Forty-seven per cent of women in B.C. have been sexually assaulted at some point in life and 86 per cent of all violent incidents were not reported to police.

Funding dries up for Sustainability Project

by Chris Duehrsen

A University of Victoria campus project committed to researching and implementing environmental sustainability on campus is in danger of being wiped off the University landscape.

The UVic Sustainability Project (UVSP) recently received word that the newly elected Liberal government cut the Public Sector Youth Employment (PSYE) funding that finances the UVSP, shocking those involved with the Project.

"The UVic Sustainability Project has become a vital part of the UVic campus in terms of research and education and I am deeply saddened that the Liberal government has pulled our essential funding," UVSP Coordinator Penny Lloyd said. "I hope that the University has enough insight to want to remain in the 'Green Circle of Universities' by supporting the Project."

Lloyd said she believes the University should provide funding for one full-time position or re-allocate two work-study positions to the Project. UVic students will be very disappointed about the loss of the Project.

The Project is the driving force behind this years' EarthFest, an annual environmental education fair scheduled for the first day of fall classes in early September. EarthFest is an effective way to inform students of environmental issues, and to let students know what they can do to make the campus and the surrounding community more ecologically viable.

Some of the other programs that are endangered are the campus community mapping, sustainable curriculum, sustainable purchasing, campus community gardens and a campus ecology inventory. The Sustainability Project focuses on evaluating UVic's commitment to ecologically sound practices. In 1999-00 the UVSP initiated a year-long baseline study that yielded a comprehensive report on 13 pivotal ecological issues, such as energy and water use, sustainability in the school curriculum, transportation planning, campus ecology and sustainable investment. The Project is still striving to complete the recommendations offered by the reports.

The UVSP also works with the Eco-Research Chair and campus members to ensure the survival of the campus community gardens. The gardens have become a source of pride among participants in the UVic area. The gardens, located near the corner of Finnerty & Sinclair, allow participants to grow food in an ecologically sound environment. The gardens are now home to a variety of plants, including potatoes, leeks, onions, lettuce and herbs. A major part of the community garden's mandate is to donate a portion of the harvest to charities such as soup kitchens and food banks.

Participants have been very receptive to the mission set out by the garden administration.

"All of us understand and appreciate the need to maintain those community links and contribute back to the community," Matt Jackson, the garden's coordinator said.

However, the garden's future is threatened by proposed rezoning for other campus projects. For this reason, the community gardens have linked up with the UVSP and other campus organizations to try to procure dedicated work-study positions for the project.

In order to continue its progress of environmental research and community support, the UVSP now has to look for alternative sources of funding.

Lloyd said she likes the project to remain an important student research and education group being concerned with the UVic campus on the UVic campus.

"Many other universities recognize sustainability as an important issue and UVic should be among these forward-thinking campuses," she said. She said the UVSP shouldn't have to be fighting for it's survival due to government cutbacks.

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Local activists mourn dead protester in Italy

photo by John Thompson

Activists marching up Government Street on July 21.

by John Thompson

Victoria activists gathered on Saturday, July 21 to lament the death of Italian protester Carlo Giuliani, who was shot in the head and run over twice by a police vehicle during the G8 demonstrations in Genoa, Italy.

The group of around 30 met at the Tourist Information Booth, circulating petitions and holding placards or sticking them into nearby flowerbeds. Activist Brian Bradley expressed a sentiment shared by many, "It could have been one of us, one of us sitting right here."

He noted the escalating police violence in recent anti-globalist convergences. "First the massive gassing in Quebec City, then one shot in Gothenburg [Sweden], then three shot in Papua New Guinea," he said.

Many of the carabinieri, the Italian police force, and part of the army, were inexperienced teenage conscripts and unprepared for the chaos that unfolded on the streets. They were terrified when intelligence services allegedly told them activists planned to throw packets of HIV-infected blood. Giuliani was poised to throw a fire extinguisher through the back window of the police vehicle when he was killed.

Unfortunately, the media spotlight that shined on Carlo's dead body failed to capture the larger picture of Genoa's horrors. Under-reported events include the police raid of the Genoa Social Forum and Independent Media Centre (IMC). Police raided the buildings while many activists were sleeping, leaving many badly beaten. Sixty-one activists were injured and over a dozen which had to be carried out on stretchers. Pools of blood, smashed glass and destroyed computer equipment were left in the raid's wake, a testament to the brutality. In the prisons protesters allege they were beaten, psychologically tortured and forced to shout fascist slogans. Italy Indymedia is currently collecting evidence to submit to a UN subcommission on human rights.

The Victoria protest marched down Government Street, slowing traffic and being trailed by a squad car. During the march, activist Indu Vashist responded to mass-media portrayals of Giuliani as a martyr for the movement. She said, "for me, this isn't about him being a martyr, this is a case of a life cut short. To me, this is not what democracy looks like." Several others in the crowd voiced similar concerns about the rising costs of voicing dissent today.

The group continued down Government St., ending their procession on a grassy patch outside Centennial Square. The crowd hung their heads in a moment of silence, and one activist then sang a mournful song by Viennese Buddhist monk Thich Naht Han. Then, with farewells said, the placards were abandoned and the day carried, ambivalence hanging in the air. The local activists seemed happy to be brought together, but sobered by the reasons why.

New youth centre aids healing

by Lorna Mace

Downtown Victoria received a new aboriginal youth program this summer, which is part of a five-year cross-Canada initiative designed for, and controlled by, aboriginal youth.

The Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre, an initiative of the Native Friendship Centre, opened its doors last June to provide services and activities focused on Aboriginal youth.

"As First Nation people we can understand better where they come from and what they've experienced in their life," program coordinator Sierra Wells said. "We want to help them heal as opposed to just jumping in and saying, 'okay, this is what we're doing.' You have to get the person to the point where they want to work on the solution."

The services and activities provided by the program include sports and recreation, employment, education and training, social and health programs, youth leadership and cultural activities such as traditional cooking, arts and crafts. As there are over 1,200 aboriginal youth in the Greater Victoria School District, there is a need for a youth program that focuses on their culture and heritage.

"We're trying to reach all spectrums of the First Nation youth," Wells said. "A lot of ones have been in school, and are already leadership role models."

The goal of the program is to reach out to aboriginal youth from all backgrounds, including those on the street. Although the focus of the program is on aboriginals, it doesn't exclude non-aboriginals. Many non-aboriginal foster families with aboriginal children have expressed interest in the program, simply to learn more about the child's history. The centre holds a monthly cultural night that is open to anyone who wants to learn more about First Nation heritage.

The centre also offers cultural activities, fieldtrips, workshops and several programs, including the At Risk Minors Program, a 12-week drug and alcohol program and youth addictions counselling for those aged 13 to 25 who wish to stop using an addictive substance.

"I don't want to compete with (other youth centres)," Wells said. "I want to provide services that aren't already out there."

Wells stressed the importance of the Aboriginal Youth Centre as a means for First Nations youth to learn about their culture.

"One of the biggest things is the loss of culture and the loss of tradition, and the feeling of being ashamed for not having it," Wells said. "This is an opportunity to learn about their culture, and to be themselves."

The centre also offers interaction with First Nations elders. Drop-in Supervisor Rebekah Beaton stresses the importance elders have on the youth.

"We want to find elders who would like to come in, spend time with them and tell stories, to learn to not be ashamed of where they come from," Beaton said.

Wells hopes to include the Respect Ed program, which involves counsellors going into schools and teaching prevention and interference of violence, and peer counselling in conjunction with the program.

Victoria's Aboriginal Youth Centre is funded by the Government of Canada, and was granted the money due to the quality of the proposal that was submitted by the Youth Council. Unfortunately, in many smaller Canadian towns, the centres don't have the proper skills to write proposals that express their need for funding. "They wrote an excellent proposal," contributes Wells. "In smaller communities, it's hard to have the higher education to write awesome proposals."

The Aboriginal Youth Council, made up of youth between 13 and 24, launched a postcard campaign recently, asking Jean Chretien for funding for all centres, regardless of the quality of proposals.

BC Liberals to make loan approval tougher for mature students

by Kevin Groves

Mature students applying for a student loan for the first time this fall better have their credit cards in order.

New legislation from the federal and provincial government will make credit checks mandatory for mature loan applicants.

As of October 31, 2001, first-time student loan applicants over the age of 22 will be subject to a credit check. Financial assistance will be denied if the applicant doesn't meet certain guidelines for credit in good standing.

Assessment criteria will apply to lines of credit, car loans, utility bills and credit card payments.

Currently, the B.C. student loan program assists over 70,000 students annually, awarding about $500 million dollars. The BC Liberals estimate that the new legislation will deny less than one per cent of mature applicants, and will save about $450,000 of taxpayer money annually.

Shirley Bond, Minister of Advanced Education, said the federal government is prompting the BC Liberals to impose the new legislation.

"We are in the process of bringing the B.C. legislature into line with student loan practice in all other provinces," Bond said. "B.C. is the only province in Canada not to implement this policy yet."

On August 1, 1999, a federal regulation was introduced stating that the provinces could subject mature students to a credit check if they are applying for a student loan for the first time. Bond indicated that Ottawa is now rewording that regulation to make credit screening mandatory.

"Up until this point the wording of the Canada Student Financial Assistance Act has been 'may' impose credit checks. Ottawa is now changing it in the new legislation to 'shall,'" Bond said. "However, only students who fit the criteria will be subject to credit checks and we feel that it will affect only a small number of students."

The Ministry of Advanced Education is currently setting up an appeal process to review denials of financial assistance where circumstances were beyond the student's control. The new review committee will operate on a case-by-case basis and will look for things like a substantial reduction in income due to illness in making a decision.

"If the need is found to be legitimate in a student appeal, then I have no problem granting the request for assistance," Bond said.

But Summer McFadyen, BC Chair of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), feels that the BC Liberals have the option of whether to impose credit checks or not and that the provincial government should instead be standing up to Ottawa on issues that affect BC's students. "Clearly, though, the BC Liberals have decided not to do so on this issue and have opted instead to do Ottawa's dirty work," she said.

Bond declined to comment on whether the BC Liberals will criticize the federal government for enforcing mandatory credit checks.

In response to the new legislation, the CFS has written a letter to Bond outlining specific concerns about what they call a "regressive measure."

McFadyen added that the CFS will be working in the next year to keep students aware of changes the BC Liberals plan to make toward post-secondary education. "We'll be working with the campuses this year to make sure that students are kept informed of these issues," she said.

CIT will make you laugh and make you think

by Kevin Groves

New students participating in the Week of Welcome this September can expect a hilarious and informative time from Campus Issues Theatre (CIT) as work feverishly continues on their seventh annual production.

On Monday, September 3, CIT will show two daytime 45-minute performances in the University Centre as part of the UVic Orientation welcoming event for first-year students.

Dick Stille, director of CIT and a UVic Theatre professor, is involved for the fourth straight year and said the program has always been a success.

"[The program] adds a great element of information and entertainment into the Orientation program and helps set the tone for a new student's academic career," he said.

The program began in 1994 and founder Janet Sheppard describes it as a play that returning students write and perform for new students about the issues they may face on campus in the years to come.

"Students know better than anyone what life experiences can be powerfully shaping," she said.

Cast members said that the issues CIT could deal with in a performance could range from the relatively minor to the very serious.

"They could be small things like getting lost in the library for example," said Amanda Lisman, a first-time member of the program. "We also try to incorporate some of the bigger issues such as alcohol abuse, drugs, or date rape."

Formatting for the play tends to be open from year to year as there are no set guidelines on content, but it must incorporate as many issues as possible.

"It can be sketch comedy stuff, or a single storyline," said Joel Streat, a returning CIT cast member. "Last year the play was about a group of aliens trying to adjust to UVic, so it's really up to what the cast decides."

The cast members met in the David Lam Auditorium in late June and spent the first month of rehearsals doing improvisations to hone acting skills and decide on the issues the cast would like to present.

In the second month, cast members begin writing the script, decide on the structure and work on the scenes. The final script is then rehearsed in the last two weeks before the performance.

"Basically we panic," Stille said, "but by the last two weeks we finalize what's going on."

Cast members continue to be tight-lipped about what kind of play first-year students can look forward to this year and audiences will just have to wait and see for themselves in September.

"It's always a surprise," Stille said. "We plan to do a different format than the last three years but we won't commit until it is written."

To ensure accurate information, representatives from The Open UVic Resource Sexual Assault Centre, the Society for Students with a Disability, the UVic Pride Collective and others are invited to speak to the cast about their role on campus.

Ayla Lepine, Chair of the Pride Collective said that CIT helps to bring up queer issues that many people would be uncomfortable with in an active and constructive way.

"It's much more effective to have new students sit and be entertained and possibly learn something, and it might encourage them to visit our office," she said.

Stille added that the speakers are very important to ensure that the information presented by CIT is accurate and up-to-date.

"One thing we don't want is misinformation," Stille said. "In the case of date rape drugs for example, it used to be common knowledge that you could tell if they were in your drink by the colour or taste, but nowadays that's changed. The speakers are also used to educate the cast on the services available, which they can then present to first-year students."

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This is what a police state looks like

Protesting PNWER in Whistler, B.C.

by John Thompson

We left for Whistler at the crack of dawn, as you'd do to visit any ski resort, propelled by plenty of excitement and coffee. But we didn't carry skis or snowboards – only cameras, bandanas and arguments against corporate-driven globalization. The five of us piled into the vehicle and set out for the first ferry from Nanaimo to Horseshoe Bay.

Whistler was the meeting place of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER, pronounced "pin-whir"). While PNWER doesn't formally report to the WTO or any other organization, critics charge that it's yet another platform to peddle the agenda of corporate globalization.

As we drove on to the car-deck we could hear the barking of German Shepherds; it turns out the K9 Unit was on the same boat as us. So, after stomaching our BC Ferries breakfasts, we struck up a conversation with five officers, asking questions and explaining where we were headed. They told us they'd "rather not be used against protesters," and knew nothing about what was happening in Whistler, save what they'd gathered from news reports.

Once we arrived the protesters weren't difficult to spot. Amongst the backdrop of trendy Whistler cafes and shops, was a group of around 20, black-clad, with banners and masks. Some had been camping in the bush for as many as four days, their plans of building a tent city abandoned because of the heavy police presence. They looked decidedly out of place in the posh ski town, or then again, maybe not. After all, what better represents what they're fighting against than a shopping mall masquerading as a village?

Maybe it was the perfect backdrop.

I spoke to an anarchist named Mia who hailed from LA. She explained that she wore a mask as a form of identity protection as well as to confuse authorities. It's a tactic, "but it shouldn't be confused with the message," she said. She mentioned other activists had come from Quebec and Ontario.

As we approached the conference centre the size of the police force became evident. Police were everywhere. Lines of them flanked the protesters, with more dispersed among the crowd. A few carried big guns, while others captured protesters' faces with cameras.

Activists suspected undercover police were also mingling in the crowd. "Why are the police wearing flack outfits – do they think we're going to be shooting at them?" one protester asked, pointing at the wall of storm-troopers.

There was chanting, but the protest seemed most vibrant when words were abandoned for energetic whoops and cries, perhaps better conveying the raw energy and emotion of the crowd. Underneath this energy there was an uncertainty, of how the day would turn out, and where the three busloads of activists from Vancouver were.

It began to rain, so I returned to the parking lot to grab my rain-gear from the vehicle. When I got there the buses had arrived, greeted by plenty of rain and one tourist from Washington holding a "Profits before People" placard. "They've just come here to cause trouble," he said as protesters spilled out of the buses. This protest against protesting wasn't an isolated event: fake announcements had been posted on the Vancouver Indymedia website, claiming the demonstrations were cancelled.

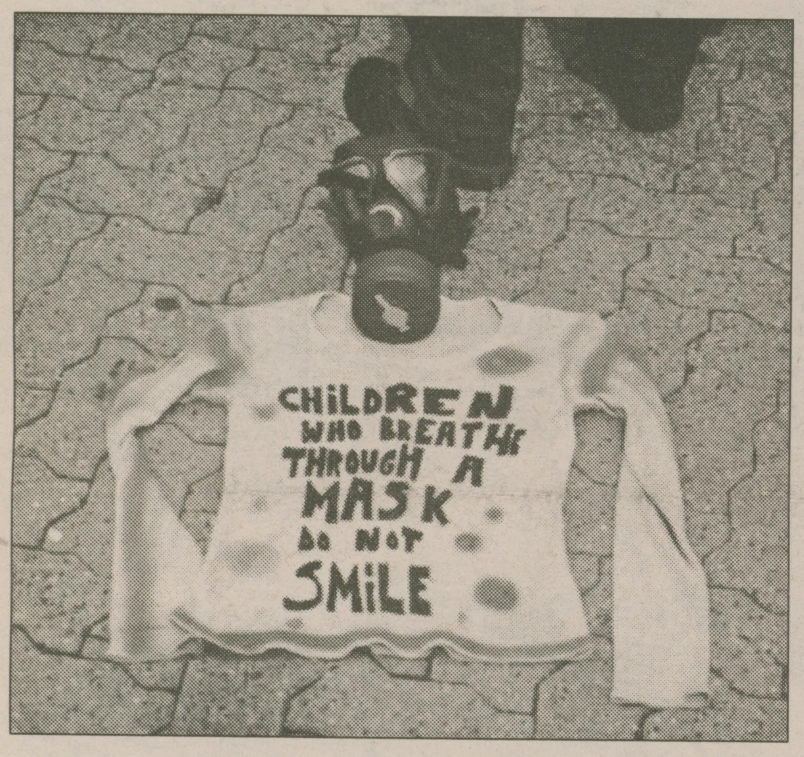
Prominent among the real protesters was a woolly-headed bunch, the Political Sheep for Corporate Rule. "Democracy is Baaad," read one placard, as they mimed corporate complacence. So much for public outreach, I thought to myself.

I began marching with the newly arrived activists back to the convention centre, almost reaching our destination before the arrests began. Eleven activists would be arrested that day, with charges related to breaches of the peace, obstruction charges and possession of rocks. While they'd all be later released, the arrests created confusion that impacted how the rest of the day would play out, and not to our favour. Some stayed where the arrests occurred; others joined the rest of the group and started the rally.

Among the speakers were several First Nations activists, a welcome addition to the heavily white crowd. They spoke out against the planned development of the Melvin Creek Ski Resort and linked together aboriginal and environmental issues. "Bears need territory as much as we do," one speaker said, and the crowd chanted with them, "Resistance, Empowerment, Sovereignty."

This lasted for a while, but it wasn't long before the crowd lost patience with speeches. There was a sense that something had to be done about the earlier arrests, which were difficult to ignore when surrounded by scores of police. And the focus never really returned to the economic summit after this point, as protesters began to push back to find those arrested.

photos by John Thompson



Police were reluctant to give background, and at one point a scuffle occurred, triggered when a protester was grabbed by police. Protesters tried to pull him free, causing more police to grab more protesters. Confusion broke out, blasts of pepper-spray were fired, and one wild-eyed officer lost his cool, spinning around and pointing his big rubber-bullet Tommy gun at the crowd.

Police eventually let the group through and protesters began to march to the Police Station for jail solidarity, leaving those at the PA system behind. I think most people wanted to do something, but there was no attempt to reach consensus, or to think our actions through.

So we began marching back down the street we had come from, leaving everyone feeling a bit confused. As we passed a wall of police officers we saw the K9 unit from the ferry, who we shouted and waved to.

We paused in front of a pedestrian bridge that crossed over the street, while somebody pontificated on a loudspeaker and others shouted, "join us, join us!" to unresponsive tourists. I'm not sure what surprised them the most, a group of 200 protesters flooding the street beneath them, or the fact that they didn't need to pay for the entertainment provided. The "people before profits" chanting didn't seem very informative, so I opted to hand out pamphlets instead.

"By hiding your faces you're discrediting your movement," one bystander shouted. I ran up and relayed Mia's explanation to him, and to my surprise, he bashfully thanked me. "They probably have the best ideas, but I just wanted to be heard," he said.

I kept busy snapping photos, interacting with bystanders and challenging the few hecklers. Most onlookers were curious rather than hostile, thanking me when I explained why the demonstrators were there. It was a good day for individual interaction, but a bad one for group dynamics.

The police allowed us to march without any hassle, to a point. They decided to intervene once we reached the parking lot we arrived from, blocking our path and circling the crowd. Marshals stood between police and angry protesters, some who threatened to push through both lines. It soon became clear that the police had no intention of letting us go any further.

"You're causing a disturbance, and that's illegal," said a policeman.

"We're just a bunch of people saying this is unfair," an upset activist said.

It wasn't long before both protesters and police began to relax. "It feels like we're chasing our own tails," one protester commented. "I want to know where my friends are," another insisted. Some suggested voluntary mass arrests, but few were willing to be arrested. In the end protesters began moving off the street, chanting the refrain, "this is what a police state looks like." Most activists stayed up against the police line on the roadside, but with little else to do it wasn't long before the protest scattered and dissolved.

Police spokesperson Mike Herchuk later said, "the police are learning every time from these protests. We're constantly training, constantly upgrading equipment." Many of the officers in Whistler had attended the APEC and Quebec City demonstrations. And while the police were prepared for the worst in Whistler, the roughly 200 protesters were probably outnumbered and certainly out-prepared by police. What's most disappointing was how we were either unwilling or unable to make effective decisions as a group.

Still, it should be no surprise that authorities can, on occasion, out-manoeuver protesters. The challenge of future convergences seems to be whether we can continue innovating, being both confrontational and creative. And I still believe that's a challenge we can meet.

If we had shut down the PNWER summit, it would have only been a symbolic victory. Police can squash a manifestation of the movement, but when protesters aren't confronting police they're busy working towards empowering their own local communities and aiding others in the struggle. This is far more difficult to shut down, especially when it's not just happening in the Northwest, but across the entire globe in a growing network of resistance. I'm not sure if there are enough riot police and K9 units to shut down this movement that's working its way to the surface of the world.

Eating gummi bears with Johnny Action Figure

by Kevin Groves

Have you ever heard of a band named Johnny Action Figure?

If you've been hanging out on the streets of downtown Victoria lately, you might have been asked this question by band members Gilles Maillet (Highway Robbery), Allen Mason (The Professor), or Tom Salter (Weapon S). I had an opportunity to sit down and eat gummi bears with these superheroes who, according to their website, "fight for justice and free beer on stages across the galaxy."

For the past year, Johnny Action Figure has been a regular attraction on the stage of Steamers, and with skills honed in bands like Purrr, dogtooth violet, Squish, ThinKing, Carolyn Neapole and Subtitled, the band members seem to have all the talent needed to make the long trip towards pop stardom, or at least be able to use the words BOFF, POW and BLICK!! with little discretion. So, if you were at the recent Radiohead concert and are hungry for more, go check out a Johnny Action Figure show.

Martlet: So, let's start with the basics, how'd you guys get started?

Gilles: Well, I was playing in bands and they were playing in bands here in Victoria a couple of years ago, and we all saw each other from a distance over the smoky crowded room, and we got together that way. Actually, these guys got together and conspired to kill me at one point if I didn't join the group. So I had no choice.

Al: Yeah it didn't work out, at all, and now we're stuck with him. We ended up breaking his leg and had to take care of him.

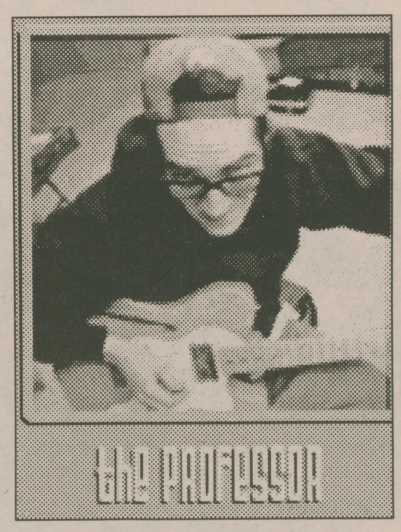
Martlet: Why the name? How'd you guys come up with Johnny Action Figure?

Gilles: There's a whole bunch of reasons, really. It's memorable.

Tom: It was actually randomly generated on the Internet and we had nothing to do with it. It was probably about the 15th try, but that's the name that we came up with.

Martlet: What about your own individual names, why do you go by Weapon S for example?

Tom: Because I was horribly disfigured as a child and now my drumsticks come out of my forearms at will <laughs>.



Gilles: I'm just a terror on the highway.

Al: I can vouch for that, he drove me here. He does drive like a maniac.

Martlet: What would you say is the type of music that you play?

Gilles: That's a tough one really because we always get asked that question, and it's always the same thing, we're always like... I don't know.

Al: I'd call it death metal disco.

Tom: Backstreet Boys without the chair dancing

Gilles: It's up to interpretation really. You can play whatever you think it is and people will come up to you afterward and be like "you guys sounded just like Megadeth that was wicked." We don't really have any control over that so we just kind of leave it open. Our music, no matter how ready we think it is to present to an audience is really still in its formative stages. We work really hard to get our songs entertaining and sonically happening, but some people just won't care for it and certainly won't brave a shot at categorizing us, so I won't either.

Martlet: What would you say are your strongest influences, as a group?

Tom: Jeff Buckley. He's been pretty much a universal influence on all of us. Oh and the Backstreet Boys, before their chair dancing phase of course.

Martlet: What would you say is your ideal audience?

Gilles: <laughs> well, lets see... They have money, they like our music, and they want to buy stuff.

Tom: They just need to be a pretty open crowd.

Al: We've had all different age groups, at least that I've seen anyways. I've had guys come up to me and say "hey, you're that guy from Johnny Action Figure," and I say "why yes I am," and I give them a sticker. Anyone who recognizes us gets a sticker.

Gilles: People respond in different ways to our band. They heckle us and say "you suck" a lot, then utter encouragement after the shows every now and then: "you guys don't really suck." Stuff like that.

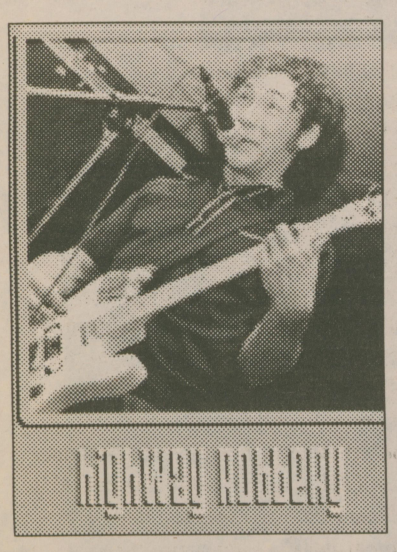
Martlet: Where would you like to take your band if you had a choice?

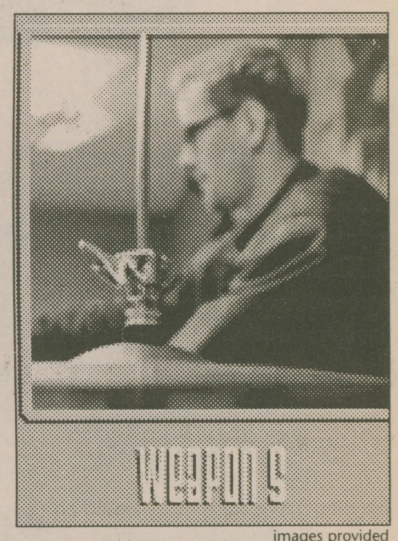
Al: I want to see Prince George, I want to see the Kootenays, I want to see all those places. Eat at various diners, possibly in Lumby.

Gilles: That's the tour we're planning two years from now, you just saw a sneak preview of the road trip right there <laughs>.

Martlet: What would you say is the future of your band? Where do you plan to go from here?

Gilles: Well the idea is just to play, and have fun, and hopefully make some money as well so that we can live. It's great to see people supporting live music in Victoria, because that's where it's at. It's hard for me to justify spending a lifetime writing songs that will only be available on tape, cd, MP3, or whatever conduit we take advantage of these days for our daily dose. It seems that if you're going to sell albums to people, then you'd better back it up in person with a heartfelt live show, instead of just sitting on your ass in your basement collecting pay cheques.





images provided

Liquid Bellies, Soft Bodies

Alumni artist exhibits on campus

by Lorna Mace

The McPherson Library walls breathe life, as three dimensional paintings seem to reach out of the walls this month and next.

University of Victoria graduate Laurel Terlesky's "Liquid Bellies Soft Bodies" is on display between August 12 and September 27 in the gallery in The UVic McPherson Library.

Terlesky's exhibit portrays the effects our thoughts have towards our body language. And the title refers to the way in which our physical expression is influenced by our more internal thoughts and feelings.

"Thus, the title refers to the malleable quality of a person's self-expression," Terlesky said.

Terlesky uses a dynamic mix between oil paints and fine black line work. The exhibit is a display that moves, converses and feels for itself. Terlesky refers to her history in dance, and in turn, communication using our bodies, when speaking of the inspiration for the pieces.

"The pieces here develop a conversation about body language," Terlesky said. "I find it interesting how often our intent is misunderstood depending on others' self-understanding and their personal experiences." She said travelling helped develop her view on art, and paved a road of self-discovery.

"By learning about other culture's visual expression I constantly learn about myself," Terlesky said. "Art, music and dance are at the root of our collective culture and identity."

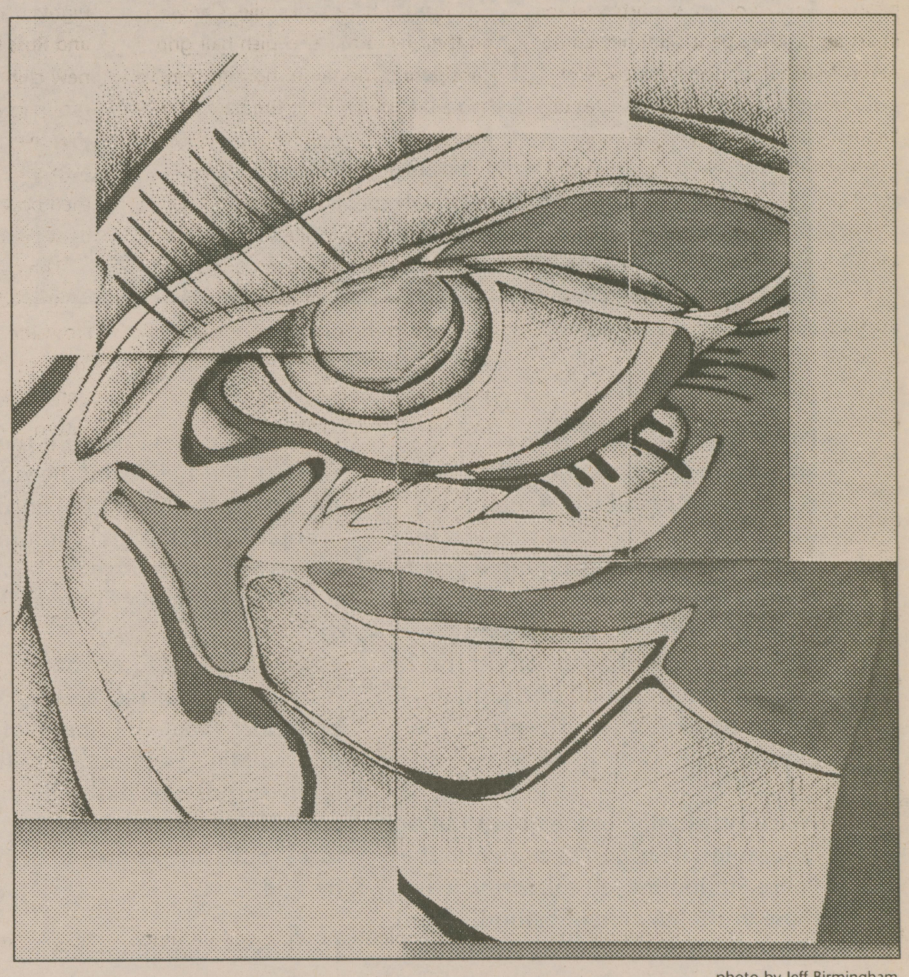


photo by Jeff Birmingham

I is one of the pieces on display at the McPherson Gallery.

Terlesky's pieces could be considered abstract in the sense that the original intent and meaning does not immediately jump out at the viewer. They are subtle, and contain subtle messages, as they allow a viewer to take their own unique messages from the art. Terlesky begins with a theme, but allows the theme to be different and personal for everyone who views her works.

"Certainly the work is created from a particular topic for myself – but my audience will bring new ideas and understandings to the works." Terlesky said. "The beauty of having people interact with my work is to learn about how it affects them and what they see."

Terlesky's display is an enjoyable journey through the visual arts. Each painting tells a story of different aspects and movements of the human mind and form. Terlesky has shown an artistic maturity that can only come from her own experiences and journeys. Her love of artistic movement is displayed in the exhibit and will be shared by anyone who views the exhibit.

"When I see a modern dance performance it takes me on a special journey," Terlesky said. "It always surprises me to hear what my neighbour has thought about the same performance. There is a beauty in that."

Terlesky graduated from UVIC with a Bachelor Degree in Fine Arts, after evolving her skills in the visual arts with a focus on painting and photography. She has done extensive travelling throughout Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, and the United States, and has extended her artistic abilities to include film and digital media. The abstract pieces were created over a three-year period.

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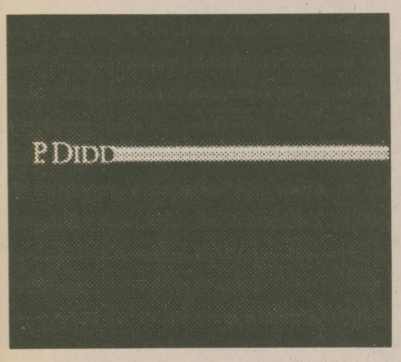
Puff Daddy brings a new moniker to an old style



by Scott Roberts

Borrowing the southern gospel vocal styles of crews like Goodie Mob, the comical/playful story lines of Prince Paul albums (producer of early De la Soul), drum lines usually associated with Outkast or Kool Moe Dee, and themes centred around getting cash, creating world peace, pimpin hoes, ending racism and wearing shiny suits, the P-Diddy (aka Puff Daddy, Sean "puffy Combs, et al) has once again created the archetypical pop hip hop album.

Throughout more than a decade in the industry, the P-D has produced popular hip hop acts as Craig Mack, Mary J Blige, as well as more recent contributors to the Hype Williams styled video star world such as Black Rob. In other words, the P-Diddy has, largely on flashed cash, booty girls, borrowed ideas and underdeveloped themes, generated for himself a $500 million hip hop empire by selling exactly what it is that suburban and ghetto youths want to buy. That is thuggin, getting high, being a man, driving fancy cars, livin in mansions, and hanging with big breasted girls. **The Saga Continues ...** definitely is the truest expression of all that is Puff Daddy.

Never is this more poetically displayed than on the track entitled "Shiny Suit Man" in which the Puff Puff digs deep in the vault of metaphor in order to refer to his label (Bad Boy Entertainment) as his $500 million shiny suit, which obviously helps with getting play from the ladies, yeah yeah.

The image he presents has previously been Puffies strong point, while the music seems merely to be the backdrop for Bad Boy's Entertainment's show. The P-Diddy has never been known for digging too deep in the crates for his samples, however, he does occasionally find the right shovel. On *##Back For Good Now##* Puffy and his crew lyrically and musically sample two of the best hip hop tracks of all time, Special Ed's "I've Got it Made" and Audio Two's "Top Billin'". The rhymes aren't too tight, which could cause some Audio Two/ Special Ed fans to get upset, but the timing is decent and at least these old school cats are getting some of the biggest royalties they've seen in a while.

The Saga Continues ... takes its form by borrowing vocal styles and musical integrity from past performers in hip hop, rock, and soul (Al Green) then repackages it for mass consumption and entertainment. If that is the formula you seek then this album should be just what you are looking for, but don't expect any surprises from the continuation of this journey into sound.

Neptune: A look back at a club that did something different

by Scott Roberts

There are few people who would argue that Victoria is lacking in brilliant people. With all of the exports you see in art and music, be it semi-newcomer Aaron Marshall on the back page of *Juxtapose Magazine* (current issue) or Sarah McLaughlin, everyone knows that very atypical things go on in this small city.

Moses Znamier (founder of Much Music, Bravo, City TV and of course, CIVI our new TV station) knows it, and thanks to our young Nelly Furtado, so does pop music around the world.

However, slightly below what is being broadcast about this city on radio and tv, hovers a mass of underexposed talent just bursting through the seams of this Victorian town. To Vancouver, Seattle, L.A., Toronto, Montreal, New York or the Cayman Islands they disperse in order to find the record labels, art galleries, movie industry, or previously (we hope) television that will support their art and life.

But this is not to be a dissertation on the lack of cultural institutions for the younger in this fair city, rather an examination of one that has recently past, one that exposed a lot of new terrain in, and with it new people to, electronic music. From record labels to new musical forms, the Neptune Soundbar has laid new ground on which others now may tread.

Few people are more acutely aware of this fact than Liam Lux. As the manager of Boomtown (the largest and oldest electronic music/record store on Van Isle) and the dj for two of Neptune's biggest nights (the Player's Ball and Pure) he has been involved with the Neptune Soundbar since day one.

"James and Russ Bloomfield paved the way for more underground events to happen at what are considered to be more mainstream venues (clubs as opposed to raves)," Lux said, "They also showed other clubs that you don't have to play top 40 schlock to appeal to the lowest common denominator in order to fill a room."

The newly immigrated postulate about the ocean air and the sunny weather giving way to so many talented people, while the old school cats just lay back and smile. Carrying on their faces this sheepish half grin considering the same thought they've had so many times in the past, "I told you so."

Neptune Soundbar was one of those truly special hideaways. Kept semi-secret for a while so the locals could have their fun, Neptune quickly became the place in town to shake one's ass to the most soulful electronic music in town. Contained within the glowing soft blue walls of that awkwardly shaped little bar was a group of people who were determined to create an atmosphere that was as unique as the corner of the world that they chose to place it.

Still others simply say that it is what it is, another nightclub gone under. But for those like Spencer, who played a deep techno night at Neptune called itiswhatitis, named after his record label itiswhatitis recordings, it superceded such a simple explanation.

"The night at Neptune was the perfect expansion of the label," Spencer said, "It gave us the opportunity to expose the music and show people that deep techno is much more than banging non-musical music."

Being that Friday night is one of the busiest nights of the week, itiswhatitis recordings flourished along side it's night of the same name. After all, it is rather difficult to appreciate music if people haven't heard it before.

"It also created a brilliant avenue for out-of-town artists to come to see what it is that our label does and to see that we are about maintaining the integrity of the music, both within our label and on a public platform that we use to expose the music on a weekly basis," Spencer said.

A club that you didn't go to in order to get drunk, get laid and get in fights. A small blue room affectionately labelled the Tuner. A place for friends of electronic music. A place for the dedicated and interested. A place to start something different.

And create is precisely what these boys did. From the Player's Ball (a disco and funk night) to Pure Saturday nights featuring Liam n'Moe) James and Russ brought to this city a whole new club experience and focused a group of people interested in what it is that they had to offer, music for its own sake. If their motives weren't Pure then how could they have brought back disco, again?

The concepts and their variety are what made the Tuner what it was. From the best disco and funk night in the province (yes, better than the Commodore), to the one of the only Saturday nights in the world devoted to live electronic music (Cobblestone Jazz's previous residency) Neptune covered a lot of ground. One would be hard pressed to find another room that exists which would embrace the sounds of David Byrne (lead singer of Talking Heads), George Clinton (lead singer of Parliament), Hakan Lidbo (most prolific house producer on poker flat records), and Cobblestone Jazz (local breakbeat-oriented live PA jazz fusion).

Where else could you find a place that offered its patrons such a comprehensive electronic music history lesson? Nowhere that this town has ever seen before.

While most clubs shove these types of music into mid-week slots in order to keep the best weekend spots for top 40, the Tuner was part of our culture through and through, not merely a bystander rolling in and out as the profits.

Thanks again, James and Russel, we all hope that the cell phone sleeps well with the fishes.

Pure featuring Mr. Moe and Liam Lux has moved to Lucky Bar Saturday nights. Itiswhatitis records can be reached at www.itiswhatitisrecordings .com and releases can be purchased at your local record store.

The Player's Ball is being renamed and is moving to Vertigo nightclub as Boogie Nights featuring Wax D. Lux starting Wednesday, Sept. 5 at Vertigo.

Maybe Darwin got it wrong

by Kevin Groves

I wasn't expecting much when I sat down to watch the *Planet of the Apes* remake. Hollywood has butchered many old movies and tv shows in recent years (anyone remember the *Lost in Space* remake? No? There's a reason for that) and I wasn't really expecting the shiny new version of this sci-fi classic to wake me from my post *Tomb Raider* contempt for this summer's flicks.

I admit that the thrill-o-metre did rise a little bit during some scenes, after two hours of watching Mark Wahlberg dodge simians for the benefit of humans everywhere, but the thrills never made me annoy fellow watchers with repeated affirmations of how cool the movie was. The end result is a movie that will entertain you, but is hard to really *like*.

There are some things about *Apes* that are quite commendable. Tim Burton's dark sense of humour is prevalent throughout the entire movie. General Thade (Tim Roth) jams open Wahlberg's jaws to see if humans really do possess a soul and later Burton has his escaped humans run through a series of ape living spaces, scaring the pants back on one couple in the process.

As for the apes, actors purportedly had to don large amounts of latex and undergo an extensive training into the behaviour of our nearest cousins on the evolutionary ladder to make the portrayal convincing. The results are nothing short of astonishing.

The problem with this fascination for the apes is that they are by far more interesting than the humans, especially when compared to Wahlberg's lacklustre performance as an air force captain that'll leave a taste in your mouth reminiscent of stale Pepsi. Or the seemingly mute role of Estella Warren as Wahlberg's half-hearted love interest. Despite an interesting cameo by proud NRA mouthpiece Charlton Heston, where he launches into a sermon-like speech about how humans should never be allowed to possess firearms (proof once again that morals come second to payoffs), the plot is predictable and the ending will more likely leave you scratching your head than with the chilly feeling you'll get from watching the original.

And then of course there are the Hollywood incredulities, like the giant nebula-esque entity that sucks Wahlberg into his adventure. It looks impressive but is never actually explained beyond the obvious necessity of advancing the plot.

My favourite, though, is when Wahlberg goes back through the nebula, emerges at Saturn's doorstep, and then rockets to Earth in what looks like under two minutes. Since Saturn is about 1,277,565,816 km from Earth, that means Wahlberg was travelling about 106,463 kilometers per second! Not bad for what looks like a souped up jet engine at the back of his egg shaped pod – there must have been a turbocharger in there somewhere.

In the end what keeps *Apes* from being a great movie is the non-acting of Wahlberg, who's personality, whether on the screen or not, always seems to be set on 'irritate.' There have been cases where this liability has been conquered by the overall solidity of the film (*The Matrix* is a case in point, who would ever put their faith in the vacuous Keanu Reeves as saviour of humanity?), but in this case *Apes* just doesn't have the stuff to make me go bananas over it.

Yeah! Yeah! Take him out General Thade!

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LETTERS

Thank you to the People's Opposition

As a student activist opposed to the current trend toward the corporate agenda, I am often asked who I support when it comes to the recent clashes between protesters and police forces. Sometimes I have a hard time deciding between the rock-throwing protesters, and the teargas-shooting police forces. However, I am pleased to say that in Victoria on July 24 I can support the actions of both the police, and the protesters.

On July 24 the People's Opposition showed their anger towards the Liberal Government by staging a truly peaceful demonstration on the steps of the Legislature. I must admit some apprehension as I stood right behind the short, green fence as it was slowly rocked back and forth. I watched the police and Legislature Security guards move closer to the fence, and anticipated riot police arriving on the scene at any moment. They never came (although I later discovered that they had been waiting inside).

As the fence went down and our group of several hundred moved onto the walkway in front of the building, the police backed off. We stood there, without throwing rocks, without coughing and choking from teargas, and without being dragged away by police. We stood there chanting slogans, singing songs, and talking about democracy and social justice.

I take pride in the fact that I live in a country where debate occurs before decisions are made by the government, and this is precisely why I enjoyed watching the military band pack up and leave. Gordon Campbell might have received a clear mandate from the voters of B.C., but if he thinks that he will run our Province without proper debate, and start it all off with a parade then he has underestimated the People's Opposition.

On July 24, 2001 the real opposition to the Liberal Government, the People's Opposition, stood at the door to the Legislature, and demanded an open debate with the people inside. On July 24, 2001 the police did their job by supporting the law-abiding people of this province. On July 24, 2001 democracy sat down on the steps of its own house, and reminded this province that it is NOT about electing dictators for four years, but IS about open debate, and the free exchange of ideas.

I would like to thank the protesters AND the police for stating the ideals of democracy so effectively.

Adam Peters
Director-At-Large
University of Victoria Student Society

To the Unnamed Topless Editor of *the Martlet*

In response to the unsigned Editorial in the July 19th edition of the Martlet titled "Pride? 2001."

We as a Pride Board have been producing the Pride Festivities as a more family, or all ages inclusive event in response to the needs and requests of the Gay community at large. Surprisingly enough, the majority of complaints regarding topless women at the Pride Festivities have come from the women in our community.

Bars have been a cornerstone of gay culture, but drinking in an all ages event and in public, is not only inappropriate, but also illegal. We were asking those drinking at the park to either stop or be more discreet. Public sex has been a cornerstone of gay culture, but at an all ages event you found that because it was illegal and inappropriate, there was no one fucking in the park.

Having the right to go topless is a valiant cause for women to fight for, at the right time and place. No one is offended by bare breasts. It just is not a gay culture issue. Groovefest is a great event to further this cause, and you do a very empowering and powerful performance there. Perhaps "Take Back The Night" would be a more suitable venue for you to further your cause though I highly doubt they would appreciate you marching topless with them either. As a proud lesbian, with a need to fight this cause, were you sitting topless at your desk at *the Martlet* writing this editorial? Do you go to classes topless? Why is going topless a political statement only on Pride Day? Try being Proud 365 days a year, and choose to fight for equal rights, not exceptional rights.

If you are so offended by the so called "media friendly" and "compromised" way we produced Pride, we invite you to stop your bitching, put your best breast forward, and get involved in the organizing of Pride – or is it easier to just complain about the hard work that everyone else does for the community. You can contact the Pride board about the upcoming AGM by calling 385-3806, or writing Victoria Pride Board at PO Box 8016, Station Central, Victoria, BC, V8W 3R7, or e-mailing the Victoria Pride Board at irmaladouche@home.com. We look forward to having you and your ideas at the meetings, and yes, you can attend the meeting topless if you choose.

Kevin Barnard
Director
Victoria Pride Society

Are bare breasts a queer issue?

Your editorial, Pride? 2001 caught my attention on the stands and I read with interest the comment that Pride is, in your opinion, not inclusive and diverse enough. The central issue here is bare breasts.

It has long been my contention that Pride is about celebrating our queerness and being visible so that it is safe for queers to be out, to be who we are without fear of attack on the streets, or covert discrimination on the job. I have held equally that our queens have full rights to full drag and our other community reps, dykes on bikes to the briefcase brigade, be allowed to express that inner part of us all which all too often doesn't show itself to the world at large.

Bare breasts? Seems to me it's a feminist issue. What has being gay got to do with bare breasts? Straight women can't parade around with bare breasts (although they have won the right to breast feed in public).

We are in the process of obtaining equal rights to all things. Why should we be on the streets proclaiming the right to bare breasts while straight women cannot? We want equality in all things, not special privileges, as the extremists would have the world believe.

The editorial discussed the "family" event aspects, which held sway on the picnic grounds. Apparently, a woman was asked to put her top back on. I think I saw the woman in question, she was very attractive, but so what? I have also always held that we are most attractive when we cannot see everything. While I don't guess the children attending even noticed the breasts, or could care less if they did, it is still a courtesy and a matter of respect for our bodies that keeps me from feeling that bare breasts have anything to do with exposing our "gayness."

Barbara McLauchlin
Former editor
Lavender Rhinoceros

Calling all Padstow relatives!

Mr J. E. K. (Gerry) Chandler of Padstow, Cornwall, England, will be visiting Canada in September and would like to get in touch, find, look up and visit with any relatives he may have in the Okanagan Valley district. There may be quite a few of them!

Our story starts when two brothers – George and Harry Old from Cornwall, immigrated to Canada in 1895, settling in the Okanagan Valley. Daughter Edith married Charley Flick and lived at Kootney Ranch, 90 Edgewood Post Office, BC. They had four children – Arthur, John, Lucy and Joyce. Arthur and John were farmers but their land was eventually flooded to make way for a dam. Daughter Lucy died at 33 years and had four children.

Edith had 13 grandchildren. She mentions Dave and Gordon (could be "Flick") or they could be Lucy's children; we don't quite know their proper surnames. Edith had a brother, Frank Old, and Dave and Gordon could have been his children.

Edith is Gerry's aunt. Correspondence ceased in the 1960's – presumably when Edith might have passed on. Visiting Mr. Gerry Chandler is now about 70, retired and lives with wife Betty at 26 Parc Eglos, St. Merryn, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8Nw Ph 01841-520687. He is a railway enthusiast.

It would be nice to find out something about Mr. Chandler's relatives. He may be contacted directly, or information may be left with Mr. K. M. John Krause, 2709 105a street, Edmonton, AB, T6J 4A3 Ph (780) 436-2891. Or, e-mail krauses@powersurfr.com. Mr. Krause lived in the Okanagan for some time, hence the connection. Any assistance and your help would be very much appreciated. Kindly acknowledge the above whether or not this is possible. Thank you.

Mr. K. M. John Krause

Nurses deserve more respect from BC Liberals

DO WE RESPECT AND VALUE OUR NURSES? DO THEY RECEIVE PROPER RECOGNITION FOR THEIR VALUABLE MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES? ARE THEY RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR SERVICE?

They are not. Anyone who serves in the Military for 12 years gets a Service Medal. If one sits at the front gate at Butchart Gardens for eight years with the Commissionaires, one gets a Service Medal. Military, Police, Fire Fighters, Ambulance Attendants, Jail Guards are all jobs traditionally and historically being done by men. The door has been opened, and a few females now serve in these professions and receive recognition in the form of Service Medals.

Be that as it may, the fact remains that historically 'Nursing Positions' were mainly filled by females and from Florence Nightingale to this day the majority of nurses are still female. The fact that nurses do not receive Service Medals tells us that there is still gender bias rampant in the land. Neither management, nor the government treats them with respect. Because nurses are in the main, females, they are being pushed around by the bully on the block, Mr. Campbell. Come on Campbell, give them a proper raise.

The flag person on the highway construction site receives $30.00 per hour; Only about 24 nurses in B.C. will receive the $34.00 per hour that the media, the government and management keep talking about. The rest in their thousands will receive considerably less. They have not seen a significant increase for 10 years. After a nurse who is an RN, BScN, MScN pays her babysitter and her parking fees, she is left with little take home pay, in order to pay off her student loans which have made her the proficient, modern-trained, up-to-date, analytical, and in the know, theoretical and practical caregiver, that I want at my bedside when I get sick. Granted, Gordon Campbell, if he should get sick, probably can afford to go to the US, where he will have driven our best people, and he will receive excellent front-of-the-line treatment and care from our expat B.C. nurses in the US. Otherwise he would have to wait in line with the rest of us whilst our short-staffed, over-worked, under-paid caregivers sort out the most serious cases to move to the front of the line. Campbell's legislated end to the seniority call out list, complete with its lack of respect and proper pay, will create a rash of early retirements, and resignations by B.C. nurses who will head for Alberta and the US where they might receive proper pay and a little respect. Not many of our new graduates will stay in B.C. once they get their RN.

Nurses should be managed by nurses and not politically appointed Social Workers. If the managers walked a mile in the Ward Nurse or the Op Room Nurse's shoes, then perhaps there would be some respect. It goes without saying that the managers get paid quite well and as for the Politicians, their first consideration was their 20 per cent raise eh? Write or phone your MLA and tell him or her that you want your nurses respected and well paid.

William Willbond

BILLBOARDS

ON CAMPUS

The McPherson Library Gallery is exhibiting *Liquid Bodies and Soft Bellies* by Vancouver artist and UVic alumnus Laurel Terlesky from Aug. 12 to Sept. 27.

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OFF CAMPUS

CATHOLIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Every Sunday there is a 4:00 Student Mass at Holy Cross Church, 4049 Gordon Head Rd. Welcoming Barbecue on Sunday Sept.16 at Holy Cross Parish (4049 Gordon Head Rd.) for all new and returning Catholic students and friends. Starts at 5 p.m. right after 4 p.m. Mass. Club Hike up Mt. Doug on Sunday, Sept. 22, 1-3 p.m. Catholic Students' Fall Retreat Oct. 5-7, Thetis Island. For more info about these events, contact Kate at kfagan@uvic.ca or 721-8339. Visit the UVic Catholic Students' Association page at http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/~catholic/ to find out more!

The Moss Street Market is enjoying another season of organic produce and herbs, organic baked goods, crafts and a variety of interesting creations. Drop by Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to see what the market has to offer this year. The market is located at Sir James Douglas School, Thurlow + Fairfield.

TUTORS

English/Philosophy Tutor $15.00/hr. Phone Carlos 704-6683. Email: serravet@accglobal.net.

VOLUNTEERS

Victoria Indymedia is now official! Participate by going to victoria.indymedia.org. Join the listserve or come to our meetings Sundays at 6 p.m. in Fernwood Square.

Mentors needed: Make a difference in a child's life by becoming at Mentor to an elementary school student. Visit your student one hour per week at the school and play games, sports, do arts n' crafts, bake or pursue other activities. For more information, call Bonnie at Big Brothers and Big Sisters at 475-1117 ext.306.

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PLUS! Firedancers and Fringe Festival Performers!!
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